

## CLAIMS

- [c1] 1. A method for managing traffic channel use in a wireless communication system, comprising:
- establishing at least first and second communication connections in at least a first wireless communication device;
- establishing respective first and second idle periods for the first and second connections; and
- releasing a traffic channel associated with the first and second connections when both idle periods expire.
- [c2] 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising resetting an idle period when a transmission or reception passes through the respective connection.
- [c3] 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one idle period is set to a default value.
- [c4] 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one idle period is defined by the associated connection or application.
- [c5] 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first idle period is not equal to the second idle period.
- [c6] 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the connections are socket connections.
- [c7] 7. A wireless communication system, comprising:
- at least a first application running in a socket mode; and
- at least a second application running in a socket mode, the applications potentially requiring use of a common wireless traffic channel, the traffic channel being selectively allowed to go dormant in the absence of transmissions over the traffic channel.
- [c8] 8. The system of Claim 7, wherein the traffic channel is released when it goes dormant.

- [c9] 9. The system of Claim 7, wherein each socket mode is associated with a respective idle period, and the traffic channel goes dormant upon the expiration of at least one idle period.
- [c10] 10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the traffic channel goes dormant upon the expiration of both idle periods.
- [c11] 11. The system of Claim 10, wherein an idle period is reset when a transmission or reception passes through the respective socket.
- [c12] 12. The system of Claim 11, wherein at least one idle period is set to a default value.
- [c13] 13. The system of Claim 11, wherein at least one idle period is defined by the associated application.
- [c14] 14. The system of Claim 11, wherein the idle periods are not equal to each other.
- [c15] 15. The system of Claim 7, wherein the applications run on a wireless communication device.
- [c16] 16. A computer program product, comprising:  
means for associating at least a first idle period with a first connection;  
means for associating at least a second idle period with a second connection, a wireless traffic channel being establishable to both connections; and  
means for releasing the traffic channel when the idle periods expire.
- [c17] 17. The computer program product of Claim 16, wherein the connections are socket connections or packet connections.
- [c18] 18. The computer program product of Claim 17, further comprising means for resetting an idle period when a transmission or reception passes through the respective socket.

- [c19] 19. The computer program product of Claim 18, comprising means for setting at least one idle period to a default value.
- [c20] 20. The computer program product of Claim 18, wherein the first idle period is not equal to the second idle period.
- [c21] 21. The computer program product of Claim 16, wherein the traffic channel is a CDMA traffic channel.
- [c22] 22. A method for managing a traffic channel associated with a wireless communication device and plural connections selected from the group of connections including socket connections and packet connections, the method including:
- enabling a traffic channel associated with plural applications to be released only when all applications associated with the traffic channel do not require the traffic channel.